

Jay Joonseok Oh, Piljae Im, Hyun Woo Han, Myung Sook Chun, Daehong Kim, Mi Kyung Choi, Young-Joo Rhee, and Bo Young Jung, and to wish them all the best of success in the decades to come.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 3, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, this is a very important bill for the country and for Colorado. I would like to be able to support it.

However, I cannot vote for it as it stands now, for a number of reasons.

For one thing, I am very concerned about the bill's funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

NOAA operates six of its twelve Environmental Research Laboratories in Colorado, and my own hometown of Boulder has the largest concentration of NOAA research Federal staff in one area—300—as well as the largest concentration of university staff funded by NOAA research. So, NOAA is very important for Colorado.

Funding for NOAA in this bill is \$113 million below this year's levels, and fully \$530 million below the levels of the request. These cuts will have a devastating effect on NOAA's ability to maintain a top quality scientific workforce and to conduct crucial research into climate change and weather phenomenon.

In particular, the Committee has recommended a cut of \$34 million to NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) from this year's levels. OAR's dedicated scientists forecast solar storms and conduct research activities into diverse atmospheric phenomenon such as air pollution, climate change, hurricanes and tornadoes. A cut of \$34 million would result in layoffs of 10 percent of OAR's workforce, and the elimination of 41 university positions that NOAA currently supports through research grants. In addition to these workforce reductions, the vital research projects that these staff are engaged in will be delayed or terminated while other nations move forward with these important scientific endeavors.

The Appropriations Committee also failed to provide funding for several key research initiatives that are important to this country's future. For example, NOAA had requested \$28 million for a Climate Observations and Services Initiative to make the transition from climate research to climate forecasting. Improving our forecasts of the future climate, including seasonal predictions and even into future decades, would result in billions of dollars in eco-

nomic benefits to the agriculture and transportation industries.

A shortfall that directly impacts researchers in my district is in rent and related costs for the new NOAA research facility in Boulder. This facility, which became fully occupied in May of 1999, consolidates all of the six NOAA laboratories and two NOAA data centers in the Boulder area. The \$1.5 million increase is needed to fund the incremental charges assessed by the General Services Administration (GSA) for space, above standard utilities, maintenance and security. A failure to provide this requested amount will result in a reduction in NOAA's Boulder base programs of approximately 5 percent, which will impact key programs in climate, weather research and data collection management. I hope that this oversight will be corrected as the appropriations process moves toward.

I am also concerned about funding for the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS), a program that will replace two aging environmental satellite systems currently operated by NOAA and DOD.

The Committee cut NPOESS by \$6.6 million from the request, but did include favorable language in its report, noting that "the NPOESS program should be the first priority for any reprogramming of funds." A failure to provide adequate funding for NPOESS would greatly jeopardize the U.S. ability to provide reliable meteorological support to NOAA for weather forecasting, to NASA for its science mission, and to support the Department of Defense's combat forces. This cut would also result in a loss of as many as 70 jobs in my district, where Ball Aerospace is deeply engaged in the NPOESS program. I am hopeful that NPOESS will be fully funded in the course of the appropriations process.

I am also concerned about the bill's provisions for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. NIST also has a laboratory in Boulder, where a staff of about 530 scientists, engineers, technicians, and visiting researchers conduct research in a wide range of chemical, physical, materials, and information sciences and engineering. Their worthwhile contributions to NIST's work cannot continue at funding levels that are 34 percent below the numbers for fiscal 2000.

NIST's laboratories in Boulder have a backlog of critically needed repairs and maintenance, approaching \$70 million. As technology advances, the measurement and standards requirements become more and more demanding, requiring measurement laboratories that are clean, have reliable electric power, are free from vibrations, and maintain constant temperature and humidity. Most of the NIST Boulder labs are 45 years old, many have deteriorated so much that they can't be used for the most demanding measurements needed by industry, and the rest are deteriorating rapidly. Every day these problems go unaddressed means added costs, program delays, and inefficient use of staff time, but the bill eliminates the very modest fiscal 2001 request to begin to address the maintenance and construction needs.

The bill also insufficiently funds NIST initiatives for eCommerce, nanotechnologies, computer security, and assistance to small manu-

facturers in the area of eCommerce. It also completely eliminates funding for NIST's Advanced Technology Program, which has helped develop high-risk technologies with significant commercial potential through cost-shared projects. These funding decreases—at a time when we have all acknowledged the important role that technology has played in driving our current prosperity—make no to sense.

The bill also has other serious shortcomings. It does not provide adequate funding for the Legal Service Corporation, the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. It does not do enough for community-based crime prevention. It also fails to provide enough for coastal protection or for management of fishery resources.

Finally, the bill cuts \$240 million from international peacekeeping efforts, denying funding for UN missions in Africa, including Sierra Leone, Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Angola, and Western Sahara. In supporting funding for peacekeeping, I am not necessarily endorsing any single peacekeeping mission. However, we have a responsibility to pay our fair share to the troop-contributing countries, and we shouldn't abrogate that responsibility. In addition, I find it unfathomable that the Committee would ask us to place an upper limit on this funding even though we can't know a year in advance whether hostilities in different parts of the world will result in peace agreements requiring UN peacekeepers.

For all these reasons, I cannot support the bill.

A TRIBUTE TO LORNA MCNEILL,
MISS NORTH CAROLINA 2000

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2000

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Lorna McNeill who was recently crowned Miss North Carolina 2000. A native of Saddle Creek Township which is near Lumberton, in my home county of Robeson, Lorna's recent accomplishment is a source of immense pride throughout our county and all of southeastern North Carolina. She is also the first Lumbee Indian to win the title of Miss North Carolina.

The American historian, James Truslow Adams, once said, "Seek out that particular mental attribute which makes you feel most deeply and vitally alive, along with which comes the inner voice which says, 'This is the real me,' and when you have found that attitude, follow it." With decision, dedication, and determination, Lorna has followed her heart and mind and become Miss North Carolina 2000.

Lorna is a woman of decision who trusts in her instincts, her deeply-rooted religious beliefs, and the guidance of her wonderful parents in setting her goals. She is a woman of decision who is always looking for ways to help others. She is a woman of decision who always asks, "How can I best serve my community?"